

similar legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances, both the WEP and the GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take all such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to eliminate or reduce them by supporting H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act and all similar purposed legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation and the president of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 517. A bill to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-31).

S. 1917. A bill to establish a K-12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-32).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2466. A bill to reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2467. A bill to provide for a Public Health Emergency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2468. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Caro-

lina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2469. A bill establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2470. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for educational agencies and schools whose students do not read certain foundational texts of the United States and are not able to recite those texts or that teach that those texts are products of white supremacy or racism; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2471. A bill to establish a community disaster assistance fund for housing and community development and to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide, from the fund, assistance through a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2472. A bill to prohibit the non-consensual release of claims by States, municipalities, federally recognized Tribes, or the United States against non-debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 2473. A bill to provide grants for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of middle mile infrastructure; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2474. A bill to prohibit the use of funds made available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to purchase communications equipment or services that pose a national security risk; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 318. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2021 as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. Res. 319. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2021 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 320. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 67

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 67, a bill to support efforts by

international financial institutions to provide a robust global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to repeal the wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 1901

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1901, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 1988

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1988, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect access to telehealth services under the Medicare program.

S. 2083

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2083, a bill to waive the requirement to undergo a medical exam for aliens who are otherwise eligible for special immigrant status under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2102, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of General Services from

establishing per diem reimbursements rates for travel within the continental United States (commonly known as "CONUS") for certain fiscal years below a certain level, and for other purposes.

S. 2288

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2288, a bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2408, a bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes.

S. 2412

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2412, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2463, a bill to require agencies submit zero-based budgets.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 318—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2021 AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH"

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 318

Whereas cut flower and foliage growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and foliage grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend over \$35,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, an increasing number of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and foliage from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the annual per capita spending on floral products by consumers in the United States is almost \$108;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers and foliage whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers and foliage they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the "Certified American Grown" logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers and foliage from domestic producers;

Whereas millions of stems of domestically grown flowers and foliage are now "Certified American Grown";

Whereas domestic flower and foliage farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers and foliage across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, larkspur in Texas, and leatherleaf in Florida;

Whereas the top flower and foliage varieties with the highest production in the United States are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas, roses, and leatherleaf;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers and foliage, yet only 20 percent of flowers and foliage sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower and foliage industry—

(1) creates a substantial economic impact daily; and

(2) supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and foliage are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers and foliage grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower and foliage giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers and foliage speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers and foliage are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers and foliage help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers and foliage in the United States by domestic flower and foliage farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 2021 as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month";

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers and foliage grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and foliage in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers and foliage domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and foliage grown in the United States in order to show support for—

(A) the flower and foliage farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States; and